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Beet Leafhopper Survey - Desert Areas of Southern Utah and Nevada, Southeastern California and Central Arizona - January 18 - February 1, 1963

Surveys just completed by the Plant Pest Control Division in the desert areas named indicate beet leafhopper movement to the cultivated districts of central and southern Arizona, southeastern California, and eastern Utah and western Colorado to be light to moderate; the movement to southern Nevada and southern, central, and northern Utah to be light.

Generally the beet leafhopper movement is expected to be light to moderate from breeding areas south of the 34th degree parallel and light from areas to the north of this line. Rains during December and early January stimulated good annual weed host development in most of the winter breeding areas of Arizona. Dry soil conditions in western Arizona and southeastern California produced spotty distribution of host plants. Few areas with host plant cover were found north of the 34th parallel. Unusually cold weather in mid-January damaged host plants in some areas and may have caused some reduction of overwintering beet leafhopper populations.

Host plants were found at 38.7% of the 10-mile sampling points, compared to 38% in 1962, 34% in 1961, 53% in 1960, 10% in 1959, 70% in 1958, and 14% in 1957.

The average number of beet leafhoppers found in areas where host plants were present was 0.02 per square foot as compared to 0.012 in 1962, 0.02 in 1961, 0.014 in 1960, 0.05 in 1959, and 0.66 in 1958.

This report covers only the beet leafhopper situation as found in the area surveyed. It does not have reference to populations that may have overwintered in local breeding areas in northern and eastern Utah, and in western Colorado and Nevada.

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